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DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/AE (WSILVERMAN), EUR/CARC (LBAHL), AND EUR/AGS

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN RESPONSE: A COORDINATED APPROACH ON

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN AZERBAIJAN

REF: STATE 99391

11. (SBU) On July 19, Acting EconPol Counselor and PolUnit Chief delivered reftel talking points to Georg Heindl from the MFA's Human Rights Department. Heindl agreed that the USG and EU should speak with one voice to the GOAJ on reftel concerns. Heindl pointed to the strong human rights and democratization components of the EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan as a tool to effect change. Heindl thanked us for the information regarding the Farhad Aliyev trial and problems with courtroom access, noting the GoA had not been aware of this serious problem. Heindl promised to share our concerns within the relevant MFA departments.